

the rights of his Protestant countrymen shall be protected. This is the language of a man rising above everything like being a demi-god, it is the language of a man who rises above sectional or religious differences, it is the language of a man who seeks the prosperity, not of the Celts or Catholics, but of all Ireland; and by the wording of the resolution, by the care with which it has been drawn, after consulting, as he told us he had done, with members on both sides of the House, he has a reasonable hope that if adopted it may meet with the favor of the Government and Parliament of England. The hon. leader of the Opposition has delivered a lecture against landlordism. Well, landlordism may be bad. We have none of it here; every man is his own landlord, as we say in this country.

Mr. CASEY. Except in the North-West.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. An hon. member says except in the North-West. We have homesteads there for every Irishman and every Irish family. If the whole population of Ireland, man, woman and child, Catholic and Protestant, Jew and Gentile, were brought here by Her Majesty's fleet and every transport and steam vessel belonging to the Empire, there is room for them and for thousands besides. Every man in this country is his own landlord. Landlordism may, however, be good or bad, the ownership of property may be good or bad. I dare say the hon. leader of the Opposition would like to have a large estate even in Ireland. Some hon. gentlemen beside him have large estates now in the North-West and are landlords, speculators, and they have been described by a gentleman, who ought to know the feeling on that side of the House, as harpies. But this Home Rule, if granted at all, must be granted by a Parliament of landlords. It can only be carried in the House of Commons and afterwards in the House of Lords, through the votes of landlords in those Houses. They have a predominant interest and an overwhelming influence in the House of Lords, as well as very large power and influence in the House of Commons; and yet, in order that our humble request for Home Rule may be granted by the landlord Parliament of England, we tell the landlords that we are doing it for the purpose of removing them, for the purpose of letting Ireland be governed by Irish ideas; that a process should be adopted by which landlords would be exterminated, and the Land Act of last year extended and followed up by legislation both in England and Ireland, so that landlords would be swept away altogether. This is a specimen of the gentle tone in which the hon. member for West Durham wishes us to tell the Lords and Commons of England that we want to destroy and take away their property and crush out the landlords and reduce them to a position of operative laborers. With respect to the release of political prisoners, it is well known that this is a question of the greatest importance and one which is agitating the United States and Ireland. It is a burning question in every sense of the word; it is a question on which much must depend, and regarding which the Parliament of Canada must exercise the utmost caution. Therefore, my hon. friend who moved the resolution was well advised when he used these terms: "We venture to hope when the time has come when Her Majesty's clemency may be exercised in the cases of those persons who are now suffering imprisonment in Ireland charged with political offences." In regard to men who are in gaol for committing murder or outrage of any kind, the hon. member for West Durham would ask that they should be released. The hon. gentleman takes this action in order to have an effect upon extreme men who sympathise with the most extreme parties which unhappily are existing in Ireland. My hon. friend from Victoria (Mr. Costigan) is well aware that it would be worse than useless to seek for the release of such persons. Already some good has been

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD.

effected in regard to the release of persons charged with political offences only. I have Celtic blood running in my veins. I have always had great sympathy with the people of Ireland, who have suffered from the centuries of misrule inflicted upon them. The hon. mover of the resolution is not so violent as hon. gentlemen opposite would like him to be. He is not so unwise as to make a request which would lead to our resolution being returned to us with a reproof which we would richly deserve. The hon. member for Victoria expresses the hope that the time has come when persons charged with political offences, whether rightly or wrongly, may be released, enjoying the estimable blessings of personal freedom. The hon. gentleman will, I hope, succeed in having his resolutions adopted by the House; I hope they will receive the votes of a majority of the House. This is not a Government question, although it was moved as an amendment to go into Committee of Supply. But it is certainly not a Government question, and I, as First Minister, and I believe speaking with some influence, would ask all my hon. friends in this House who can conscientiously do so—I ask no man to vote against his conscience—to support the resolutions. And it is only by the support of the Ministerial majority in this House that this resolution can be carried. Hon. gentlemen I dare say were disappointed that these resolutions were not brought up as substantive resolutions and dealt with by a motion of the previous question. They would then succeed in the object which they are opposing with so much effect, and the hon. gentleman with so much ability, of being the defenders of the wronged Irishmen, and then if an election should come on they would say these people on the other side voted for oppressing the people of Ireland. They are disappointed, I know, they are rightly disappointed. I say distinctly that the stand taken by the hon. gentleman shows that he wants only to make an appeal to the Irish Catholics of Canada, that he is regardless of the prejudicial effects upon Irish people in the Old World; but I hope a majority of this House will be able conscientiously to vote for this Address and send it to Her Majesty. And I hope the *Hansard* going home to England will be delayed by the printer to such a late day that Mr. Gladstone will have assented to the principle of this Address before he gets the speech of the hon. gentleman, for if that comes into his hands the Address will surely be rejected. Mr. Speaker, I shall vote for these resolutions with every pleasure and with some hope that they will have some influence with Her Majesty's Government.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I desire to say a few words on this question, but first, Sir, I wish to correct as gross a misrepresentation as in the course of my parliamentary experience I have ever heard. I appeal to you and to the members of this House, I appeal to every man within the sound of my voice, was ever anything more grossly incorrect—and that is far too mild a word—than the words put by the leader of the House in the mouth of his opponent than those placed by the Minister of the Interior into the mouth of my hon. friend from West Durham (Mr. Blake)? He said my hon. friend proposed to let loose on demand—that the English Government should let loose—criminals guilty of certain offences upon the country. He asked nothing of the kind, but this only: that men charged with certain offences should have the right of trial. Could there be a more just or fairer or more reasonable demand than that? and yet, said the hon. the First Minister, he proposed to let loose upon society men guilty of the worst offences men could commit on their fellows. I desire, as I said, to make a few remarks upon this question. I have been long and intimately connected with Ireland. On the mother's side I am an Irishman myself, and I have reasonably well proved it. I have spent not a few years in Ireland; I may say I know the Irish people well. I have had the opportunity of